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Letters to the Editor

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Creating Communists

I am puzzled by the thinking of your columnist Joseph Alsop, with which your editorial position in "The Stevenson Speech" seems to agree. Mr. Alsop says that Hitler's scorched-earth policy in his invasion of Russia cost him the allegiance of thousands of potential Russian defectors from communism, and ultimately, by implication, cost him the war.

Mr. Alsop then goes on to praise President Johnson's and Mr. McNamara's conduct of the American war in Viet-Nam, but he never explains, and nowhere do you, why the President's and Mr. McNamara's scorched-earth-and-baby policy in Viet-Nam will win us the allegiance of potential Vietnamese defectors from communism, and ultimately win us the war.

If you take even a cursory glance at the map of Europe, you'd have to conclude that Hitler's War Department created more Communists than it killed—and I see no reason why the American Defense Department's scorched-earth-and-burned-baby policy in Viet-Nam won't do the same.

Now if the behavior of the American Defense Department in Viet-Nam creates more Communists than it kills—and it certainly looks as though that's the truth—then it's time to make a serious review of our policy vis-a-vis the problem of communism there and everywhere because as far as I can make out from your pages and from Mr. Alsop's analyses the prospects of communism look brighter and brighter everywhere on earth that the American CIA and Defense Department set up operations.

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Washington.

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